

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Respecting the debt of that State.

DECEMBER 3, 1856.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTION.

SECTION 1. *Be it resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas,* That the legislature concur entirely in the views presented by the governor of the State in his message to the legislature on the 27th instant, in reference to the recent act of Congress on the public debt of Texas.

SEC. 2. *Be it resolved,* That the said act of Congress proposing to distribute the balance in the treasury of the United States, after paying all the claims filed against the State of Texas, under the act of Congress of the 28th February, 1855, without the concurrence or assent of Texas, is unauthorized and illegal, and in no degree justified by the contemporaneous construction of that act when Texas accepted the same.

SEC. 3. *Be it resolved,* That those creditors who have filed their releases and received their money under the *pro rata* distribution of that act have no claim on the surplus in the treasury of the United States, which Congress proposes to pay them; such a payment can only be deemed a gift on the part of the government of the United States, for which that government is responsible for every cent it pays over to the creditors entitled to the fund, or to the State of Texas.

SEC. 4. *Be it resolved,* That the act in question having been enacted without the least notice to Texas, or waiting for her concurrence or assent, we regard it as nothing short of a violation of that comity which ought to subsist between independent States, involving a manifest act of public disrespect, whilst the indiscreet haste with which the act was passed in no small degree aggravates its offensive character.

SEC. 5. That in reference to the ulterior distribution of the surplus remaining in the treasury of the United States, after the payment of the public debt of Texas, in accordance with the proclamation of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, Texas has a much higher authority to speak than any other government on the earth; and she will speak hereafter with a proper regard to her own sense of

justice and honor, and the interests of that people over whose character and fortunes she is called to preside.

SEC. 6. *Be it, in conclusion, resolved,* That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be requested, to employ all and every effort in their power to procure, at the next session of Congress, a repeal of the act as offensive to our pride as it is invasive of our interests.

H. P. BEE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

H. R. RUNNELS,

President of the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Austin, Texas, September 16, 1856.

I, Edward Clark, secretary of state of the State of Texas, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a correct copy of the original joint resolution passed at the adjourned session, sixth legislature, on the first day of September, 1856.

[L. s.] Given under my hand and the seal of the department of State the day and year above written.

EDWARD CLARK,

Secretary of State.